

The Godly Man as a Disciple *The Christ-Centered Life*

The Wheel Illustration

Chapter three is divided into several parts (i.e. The Hub and Rim, Lordship, Vertical Spokes and Horizontal Spokes). Each of these are meant to be studied as separate assignments. Since they are rather short you may feel your class needs a longer assignment. If so, you may wish to assign them some of the additional questions or projects given in the Teacher's Guide for these parts of Chapter Three.

However, it would be impossible to overestimate the value of these chapters on The Christ-Centered Life (*The Wheel Illustration*). So do not rush through them. Take the time necessary to be sure each one in the class grasps the necessity of Christ being the center of their lives and the importance of living a balanced Christian life.

The Hub and The Rim

A. Object of The Lesson

1. To present an overview of the balanced Christian life.
2. To communicate the necessity of Christ being the very center of one's life and to show how this is achieved only through obedience to His Word.

B. Discussion Questions

General Questions on the Wheel:

1. In what ways do you feel the Christian life is illustrated by The Wheel? (A wheel must have a hub to function. Likewise, Christ must be our hub - our center. A wheel must have all of its spokes and they must be equal to give balanced action. Likewise, the basics must be present and in balance for the Christian to be effective.)
2. What is your opinion of the Wheel illustration?
3. Why is nothing of the fruit of the Spirit mentioned? (Galatians 5:22,23)
4. Why are these specific four spokes used? (Because they are the basics of the Christian life. If these are in balance all other areas of the Christian's life will progress.)

Questions On the Hub:

1. What is the function of the Hub of the wheel? (It furnishes the driving power and bears the weight of the wheel)
2. How does this apply to the Christian life? (Christ provides the driving power for the Christian life and bears the weight of our lives. I Peter 5:7)
3. If Christ is the center of our lives, furnishing all the driving power, how much power do we have? (Ephesians 3:20,21; Colossians 2:9,10; Matthew 28:18)
4. Whose responsibility is it to live the Christian life? (Christ - He alone is capable)

The Christ-Centered Life (The Wheel)

The key to living a victorious, Spirit-filled Christian life is Jesus Christ as the Center and Lord of all we do. With Christ in control, life is balanced and effective. **The Wheel** illustrates this Christ-centered life.



- Just as the driving force in a wheel comes from the hub; so the power to live the Christian life comes from Jesus **Christ the Center**. He lives in us in the Person of the Holy Spirit, whose expressed purpose is to glorify Christ.
- The rim represents the Christian responding to Christ's Lordship through wholehearted, day-by-day **Obedience** to Him.
- The spokes show the means by which Christ's power becomes operative in our lives. We maintain personal contact with God through the vertical spokes - the Word and Prayer. **The Word** is our spiritual food as well as our sword for spiritual battle. It is the foundational spoke for effective Christian living.
- Opposite this is the spoke representing Prayer. Through **Prayer** we have direct communication with our heavenly Father and receive provision for our needs. As we pray we show our dependence upon and trust in Him.
- The horizontal spokes concern our relationship to people - believers, through Christian fellowship; and unbelievers, through witnessing. **Fellowship** centered around the Lord Jesus Christ provides the mutual encouragement, admonition and stimulation we all need.
- The first three spokes prepare us for passing on to others all that we have received from the Lord. This is accomplished through **Witnessing**, sharing our own experience of Christ and declaring and explaining the Gospel, God's power to save.